

In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions of claims in the application with the following claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~ A method of allocating between multiple communication sources a communication channel in a communication network, the method comprising the steps of:

dividing the communication channel into a plurality of frames;

dividing each of the frames into a plurality of slots;

dividing a first one of the plurality of slots into a plurality of first mini-slots for use by the multiple communication sources to request the establishment of a new voice, data, or video transmission connection over the communication channel;

dividing a second one of the plurality of slots into a plurality of second mini-slots also for use by the multiple communication sources to request the establishment of a new voice, data, or video transmission connection over the communication channel and for use by the multiple communication sources to augment an existing video connection over the communication channel;

permitting a communication source of the multiple communication sources to use a mini-slot to request a static reservation of communication resources in the communication channel for a new video transmission connection over the communication channel while refusing to permit a communication source of the multiple communication sources to use a mini-slot to request a static reservation of communication resources in the communication channel for a new voice or data transmission connection over the communication channel; and

permitting a communication source of the multiple communication sources to use a mini-slot to request a dynamic reservation of communication resources in

the communication channel for a new voice or data transmission connection over the communication channel.

3-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~ A method of allocating between multiple communication sources a communication channel in a communication network, the method comprising the steps of:

dividing the communication channel into a plurality of frames;
dividing each of the frames into a plurality of slots;
dividing a first one of the plurality of slots into a plurality of first mini-slots for use by the multiple communication sources to request the establishment of a new voice, data, or video transmission connection over the communication channel;

dividing a second one of the plurality of slots into a plurality of second mini-slots also for use by the multiple communication sources to request the establishment of a new voice, data, or video transmission connection over the communication channel and for use by the multiple communication sources to augment an existing video connection over the communication channel;

receiving a first request from one of the multiple communication sources to establish a new real-time voice transmission connection over the communication channel, wherein the first request identifies bandwidth requirements;

receiving a second request from one of the multiple communication sources, before or after receiving the first request, to establish a new non-real-time data transmission connection or voice transmission connection over the communication channel, wherein the second request identifies bandwidth requirements; and

in response to the steps of receiving, allocating the resources of the communication channel so that meeting the bandwidth requirements identified in the first request is given a higher priority than meeting the bandwidth requirements identified in the second request.

10. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~ A method of allocating between multiple communication sources a communication channel in a communication network, the method comprising the steps of:

dividing the communication channel into a plurality of frames;
dividing each of the frames into a plurality of slots;
dividing a first one of the plurality of slots into a plurality of first mini-slots for use by the multiple communication sources to request the establishment of a new voice, data, or video transmission connection over the communication channel;

dividing a second one of the plurality of slots into a plurality of second mini-slots also for use by the multiple communication sources to request the establishment of a new voice, data, or video transmission connection over the communication channel and for use by the multiple communication sources to augment an existing video connection over the communication channel;

receiving a first request from a first one of the multiple communication sources to establish a new real-time voice transmission connection over the communication channel, wherein the first request identifies bandwidth requirements;

receiving a second request from a second one of the multiple communication sources, before or after receiving the first request, to establish a new non-real-time data transmission connection or voice transmission connection over the communication channel, wherein the second request identifies bandwidth requirements; and

in response to the receipt of the first request, allocating resources of the communication channel to the first one of the multiple communication sources in accordance with the bandwidth requirements identified in the first request; and

in response to the receipt of the second request, allocating resources of the communication channel to the second one of the multiple communication sources in accordance with the bandwidth requirements identified in the second request if sufficient resources remain in the communication channel to meet the bandwidth

requirements identified in the second request, and otherwise allocating an amount of resources of the communication channel that is less than sufficient to meet the bandwidth requirements identified in the second request.

11-13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A method of allocating the resources of a communication channel in a communication network between multiple communication sources, the method comprising the steps of.

dividing the communication channel into a plurality of frames;

dividing each of the frames into a plurality of slots;

dividing a first one of the plurality of slots into a plurality of first mini-slots for use by the multiple communication sources to request the establishment of a new voice, data, or video transmission connection over the communication channel;

determining whether a video communication source of the multiple communication sources is currently assigned communication resources in the communication channel for an existing video connection;

if it is determined that a video communication source is currently assigned communication resources in the communication channel for an existing video connection, dividing a second one of the plurality of slots into a plurality of second mini-slots for use by the multiple communication sources to request the establishment of a new voice, data, or video transmission connection over the communication channel and for use by the video communication source to augment the existing video connection over the communication channel.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of first mini-slots is also for use by the multiple communication sources to augment an existing voice or data transmission connection over the communication channel.

16. (Canceled)